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CITE DIRECTOR [redacted]

13 Dec 70

IMMEDIATE SANTIAGO

[redacted] AKA

FOR DUNCAN FROM [redacted]

RESUME OF COUNTRY DIRECTOR AND INR COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL TO AID MODERATE RADICALS:

1. ARA AGREES THAT THE ENDS SOUGHT BY PROPOSAL ARE DESIRABLE, BUT WE HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT THE ACTION RECOMMENDED WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. WE ALSO DOUBT THAT INVOLVEMENT OR NONINVOLVEMENT BY [redacted] U.S. WOULD BE DECISIVE IN [redacted] AFFECTING OUTCOME OF CONVENTION. EVIDENCE TO DATE IS TOO THIN TO GIVE ANY ASSURANCE THAT U.S. FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL BE OF REAL IMPORTANCE IN IMPROVING THE POSITION OF MODERATE RADICALS IN THE CEN. STATEMENT IN PROPOSAL THAT "THE FACT THAT PARTY MANAGED TO HOLD ITS OWN IN THESE (MUNICIPAL) ELECTIONS WILL STRENGTHEN POSITION OF THE LEFTISTS WITHIN PARTY, SINCE THEY CAN CLAIM IT AS DUE THEIR LEADERSHIP" IS STILL A MATTER OF CONJECTURE. EMBASSY SAYS "THIS IS BY NO [redacted] MEANS CLEAR. WE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT PR BENEFITED FROM MODERATE MIDDLE CLASS DISCONTENT WITH PDC ADMINISTRATION, WHICH

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GRAVITATED TO PR WITHOUT REGARD TO LEFTIST ORIENTATION OF CEN.

AVAILABLE DATA ~~IS~~ ARE INCOMPLETE ~~BUT~~ PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS INDICATES MODERATE RADICALS DID BETTER IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS THAN DID THOSE WHO TURNED OPENLY TO LEFT.

2. EVEN IF U.S. ASSISTANCE WERE TO BE PROVIDED AND MODERATES WERE ABLE TO GET FOOTHOLD IN THE CEN, THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO ~~S~~ LEAD PARTY AWAY ~~FROM~~ FROM ITS FRAP ORIENTATION. AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE PREVALENT MOOD AMONG THE TARGET GROUP OF RADICALS ARE THE RECENT PUBLIC REMARKS OF ONE OF ITS ~~PRINCIPAL~~ PRINCIPAL MEMBERS, SENATOR JULIO DURAN, WHO RECENTLY PUBLICLY STATED THAT HE AND HIS WHOLE PARTY FAVOR REACHING AGREEMENT WITH FRAP IN OPPOSITION TO FREI'S GOVERNMENT. IN PRIVATE REMARKS TO EMBASSY SANTIAGO, DURAN SAID THIS STANCE WAS ESSENTIAL IF HE HOPES TO PARTICIPATE IN CURRENT RADICAL POLITICS. THE EMBASSY, AFTER CITING THIS ASSERTION IN THE COURSE OF THE 14 APRIL ANALYSIS OF THE PR POSITION (EMBTEL 3658) REPORTED "IT WOULD BE COMFORTING TO BELIEVE THAT RADICAL MODERATES WOULD ON PRINCIPLE VIOLENTLY RESIST ACCOMMODATION WITH FRAP. AT PRESENT THIS SIMPLY DOES

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NOT SEEM PROBABLE." THE MODERATES, ACCORDING TO THIS ANALYSIS, WANT POWER; THEIR CRITICISM OF CURRENT CEN IS DIRECTED MORE TO THE IMPULSIVENESS AND INEPTNESS OF ITS STYLE THAN TO SUBSTANCE OF ITS AIMS.

3. PAST COVERT ACTIONS IN CHILE HAVE BEEN PRODUCTIVE AND WORTHWHILE AND ARA SUPPORTED THEM. CURRENT PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE OUR SUPPORT IF WE THOUGHT IT REASONABLY SURE OF ACCOMPLISHING ITS PURPOSE. BUT PROSPECT OF AN INVOLVEMENT OF THE SORT PROPOSED WITH PEOPLE WHO MAY VERY WELL BELIEVE THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE LIES IN COLLABORATION WITH FRAP IS NOT APPEALING. THE POLITICAL STEADINESS OF THE MODERATE RADICALS IS SO SUSPECT WE QUESTION EFFICACY OF A PROPOSAL WHOSE SUCCESS DEPENDS IN PART ON ASSUMPTION THAT THEY ARE RELIABLE.

4. THE EMBASSY SPECULATES THAT "IF MODERATES FAIL AND LEFTISTS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN GAINING MONOPOLY CONTROL IT IS REMOTELY POSSIBLE THAT PR WILL SPLIT." IT IS ALMOST AS TEMPTING TO GAMBLE ON THIS LONGSHOT AS ON ALL UNCERTAINTIES IN THE PRESENT PROPOSAL.

END OF MESSAGE

[redacted] C/WH/ [redacted]

[redacted] C/WH/ [redacted]

William V. Broe
C/WHD

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